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their thoughts and hands to the production once again of merchant ships.

It is interesting to note that immediately before the Suez crisis in 1956 over 5,000 ships a year, representing more than twenty-two million net registered tons of shipping were calling at Aden. They took some four million tons of oil away from the harbour in their bunkers, much of which was supplied by the Aden Refinery which was completed in 1953.

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The consequence of all this was a considerable expansion of business, not only in the port, but also in the Colony as a whole, and more and more people flocked in from the mainland and from overseas to supply the labour required by merchants and by building contractors who were beginning to make good the time that had been wasted during the war years, when building in any form other than for purely military purposes had been impossible. The consequences, or one of them, of this influx of people was to make the housing shortage acute and was to cause me, as a Legislative Councillor, many weary evenings on Committees. At the same time our shortage of staff and floating craft was a major preoccupation during my mornings and evenings in the Port Trust building. Skilled men were almost impossible to find, and high wages were not the solution to the problem, because everybody had been abroad during the war and now that it was over everyone wanted to stay at home; added to which there was the six-year gap represented by the war years in the production of skilled men, in particular in the engineering profession. It was a difficult time, but we overcame the major obstacles and the port was never forced to close even for an hour. Sickness reduced our ranks temporarily and tugs broke down and launches ran into each other, but the work went on, thanks to the supreme loyalty of the Port Trust employees.

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Eventually more pilots were recruited and half-fledged engineers found and pilot launches and a new tug ordered, but as soon as the men could be found and the craft launched so the demand increased, and in 1951 when I left the Port Trust my task was still far from complete. All our time, however, was

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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204 of affairs; it was a spectacle, it was "news", and what was no
208 less attractive a social occasion of the first magnitude. The élite of Aden society were there and the editors were not left out, but when the tumult had died down and the multitude departed, the editors, who were often their own reporters, were found to have gone as well.

619 It must not be imagined that real feeling about the political
[665] future of the Colony was non-existent. There were many people who were, in fact, seriously concerned, and a number of individuals looked forward to the time when they would be able to have a greater share in the control of their own affairs, but at that time there was nothing in the nature of a "party", as we understand the term in this country, inspired with nationalist ideas in any section of the community.

177 The Arab awakening was being accelerated by the rapid
668 educational developments in the Colony and by the radio; the
[204] first a good influence, the second poisonous to young minds
[208] with its half-truths, anti-British propaganda and reports of riots and students' demonstrations, which were such a feature of those years. The first phase of this awakening was the realisation that with few exceptions the worthwhile work in the Colony was in the hands of foreigners to Aden, and the younger generation began to wonder and to ask why strangers had the cream of the employment while they had to make do
464 with what was left. Mercifully the trade expansion after the war was creating fresh employment daily and there was work for every employable lad on leaving school, and I regret to say, very often before he should have left school. The murmuring did not go unheeded by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and we warned Government that there would be trouble unless the rights of local men and women to priority in employment, provided they were capable of doing the work, were recognised both by Government and by the employers. The warning was heeded by Government, but not by some of the "foreign" employers who claimed, not without reason, that the local article was not up to the standard of the imported. These employers continued to take advantage of a surplus of semi-skilled workers in India, which had been

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

brought about by the labour displacement which had resulted from the partition of the Indian sub-Continent. Government took measures to restrict immigration, and although they were not as stringent as they might have been, they did a great deal of good and gave time for the idea to take root that it was economically sound as well as politically expedient, to give preference to local candidates for employment and try to train them up to the required degree of efficiency. One of the results which derived directly from the immigration restrictions was a realisation by a number of local employers that, in fact, the local product, with opportunity and encouragement, could do the work, certainly just as well and sometimes better than the imported article and this, in turn, produced another and equally serious problem when boys commenced to leave Aden College and the Technical Institute before completing their educational course, tempted away by offers of remunerative employment which their parents found impossible to resist. So did the solving of one problem produce yet another to puzzle the minds and occupy the time, not only of Government officials, but also of the amateur legislators in the Legislative Council.

Before leaving the subject of the Legislative Council I should like to record that I always received the greatest consideration and courtesy from the Members, both when I was one of them, and later when for five years I presided over their proceedings. My position as President, having already been "in opposition to Government" did, on occasion, have its humorous side when, for instance, a certain very persistent and eloquent leader of one of the minority communities, who had been an Unofficial Member for years and was generally armed with a large assortment of documents and references when he spoke, not infrequently prefaced his remarks with the following:

"Your Excellency will no doubt recall what the Senior Unofficial Member said in 1949." My assurance to the honourable gentleman that I did recall what I had said never for one moment prevented him from reading out the extract with which he had fortified himself, but mercifully, for a reason which I could only assume must have been divinely inspired,

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579 in my ear that his son's wife would like to see me. So I rose and went through the back of the hall into a private house, and for the first time I met the Jewish girl who had been such an infernal nuisance three years earlier. She and her husband seemed extremely happy.

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829 As I have already indicated, it was not only strained relations between Arabs and Jews which might lead to serious disturbances in the Colony, but also the ill-feeling which existed between the Arabs and the Somalis. The Arabs disliked the Somalis, partly because of their truculent behaviour which they found difficult to tolerate from people who were darker in colour than themselves and whom they considered to be an inferior race, and partly because Somalis flocked over from their country to Aden in search of work which the local Arabs held, with a considerable degree of truth, to be their own prerogative.

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464 An example of Arab-Somali tension occurred in the spring of 1954, but on this occasion the trouble was over at Bureikha where the Aden Refinery had recently come "on stream". When the Refinery Management were considering various solutions to their labour recruiting problem they had been warned that they were inviting trouble if they employed too many Somalis in work which could be done by local or Protectorate Arabs. The advice had been accepted, but it had not been followed as strictly as it should have been, with the result that there was a considerable Somali labour force at the Refinery.

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579 It was my custom in the winter months to go out very early on Sunday morning along the Khormaksar Beach to Abiyan, either with a friend or by myself, except for my faithful personal guards, there to shoot duck, or possibly a goose, or both if I was really lucky, and this custom was well-known to the Chief Secretary. Occasionally I would go out the evening before and stay the night and although normally I always let the Chief Secretary know when I expected to be absent from the Colony for a night, I sometimes forgot to do so. It was not altogether surprising, therefore, when one Saturday night at about ten o'clock he rang up Government House and, getting no reply, thought it was because I was away, and assumed that

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Labour Relations in the Colony

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ONE of the problems with which I had to deal and the one which I, personally, found the most difficult and more of a strain than all the bickerings and scufflings in the Protectorate and the continual worry of strained relations with the Yemen, was labour relations in the Colony. To understand the problem a very brief sketch is essential of the history of labour from the time that we first arrived in Aden until the immediate post-war period.

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The invaders of Aden in 1839 came from India and brought with them Indian clerks and a few Indian artisans, and they not unnaturally looked to India for their future supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour. The local Arab was, by Indian standards, totally uneducated and seemed unlikely to take kindly to education, even if it was worth while for some effort to be made in that direction. The local article being thought unworthy of serious consideration, the practice of importing artisans and clerks from India to meet the ever-expanding demand for such workers, became the normal method of recruitment. Gradually a tradition was built up that the Arab would never be capable of skilled work and that such work was an Indian prerogative. The Indians themselves, short-sightedly, did nothing to discourage the belief.

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This dangerous state of affairs persisted until after the World War, partly because the Arabs remained uneducated and partly because the Indians were good workmen and their European masters did not wish for any change. Then the education of the Arabs was taken in hand seriously and they responded in a way which surprised even their most fervent champions. They

soon showed that they could be educated, that they were capable of doing more than just manual labour and that with understanding and encouragement there was very little that was beyond their capabilities. They began to resent the presence in their midst of an army of Indian clerks and artisans doing work which, not always with justification at that time, they considered they were capable of doing and which should be theirs by right. Unfortunately, this resentment was not confined to the Indian workers, but was directed as well against their European employers which did not make for happy racial or labour relations in the future.

The general condition of Arab labour in the Colony when I first came to know Aden in the nineteen-thirties can only be described as disgraceful. There were no superannuation benefits, and as wages left no margin between income and expenditure, nothing could be saved against old age and sickness. There were no holidays with pay, and most workers had to find their own living accommodation, and the vast majority received no medical treatment or benefit through their employers. Labour relations, as we now understand that term, did not exist. There was no form of consultation between master and man and the authority of the master was absolute.

Coal and cargo coolies were provided with accommodation; they were housed in long sheds, owned by the coaling and stevedoring companies, in grossly overcrowded conditions without any washing or sanitary arrangements, the nearby beach just across the main road served as a combined bath and lavatory. The owners never had the smallest idea who lived in these dormitories and what went on there after dark, which was probably just as well for their peace of mind in this town where women were closely guarded and youth was uncontrolled.

By the end of the World War no very great improvement in conditions was noticeable and the housing shortage, already acute, was rendered more so by a Town Planning Scheme which virtually paralysed all building operations for two years, and achieved little else except an impracticable scheme which was brought into force in a modified form and then,

mercifully, abandoned. The post-war increase in Aden's trade brought more and more skilled and unskilled workers into the Colony, until the unsatisfactory overcrowding, at one time confined to the poorer elements of the population, had spread to white collared workers and highly skilled labour. Key money was illegal but no heed was paid to the law and very few houses changed tenants without it being given and taken in some form or other.

When I came to the Port Trust I set myself to improving the standard of living of the employees and modernising their terms of employment. Government also was striving to improve labour conditions, and in the nineteen-forties a minimum wage ordinance for unskilled daily paid workers passed the Legislative Council and became law. The problems of overtime rates, juvenile employment and maximum hours of work and many kindred subjects were studied and ordinances were drafted to provide very necessary legislation. At the same time a Housing Committee was set up under the Director of Public Works to tackle the housing shortage problem. Meanwhile we in the Port Trust decasualised as much of our labour as we could and Government followed suit with theirs, an example to business houses which they were in no hurry to follow. I introduced a families' medical scheme with a lady doctor in charge for Port Trust employees, which was immediately successful and which I have no doubt Government would have liked to have seen become Colony-wide; but it was not to be, there were too many difficulties. Some of the more enterprising commercial houses introduced superannuation schemes and medical benefit for their employees, and by 1954 annual leave on full pay had become the rule rather than the exception. It is extraordinary how quickly a lead is followed, and in a few short years after the war progress was made which in many countries has taken a life-time. The speed with which these concessions were granted upset the equilibrium of some workers who, anxious to make hay while the sun shone, began to demand more and more, well beyond their just entitlement, but on the whole labour behaved surprisingly well and there was only one serious industrial disagreement during this

3:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

VIII.—LABOUR

Agricultural Labour

241 There being no agriculture in the Colony, the question of agricultural labour does not arise.

Industrial Labour

464 466 Workers for heavy manual labour are obtained from the Protectorate and the Yemen. This form of labour is principally confined to the shipping companies and the salt works. The demand for cargo and coal coolies varies, and the local companies arrange through their agents to recruit labour as and when required. The salt companies employ a permanent staff of coolies who are recruited by local agents from the Protectorate and the Yemen. These agents arrange to replace casualties and recruit extra labour when necessary.

466 The interests of the workmen are safeguarded by the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, which are in force in the Colony.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING

463 The inhabitants of Aden are principally engaged in trading, shop-keeping and domestic employment. The large numbers of coolies employed by the salt-works, shipping concerns and contractors are drawn from the Aden Protectorate or the Yemen. The small harbour craft are manned by Somalis, who take kindly to this form of semi-sedentary employment.

464 More than half of the personal servant class comes from the Aden Protectorate and the Yemen. Clerical labour in public offices and large commercial firms is largely Indian, although as education improves more local Arabs are finding employment in Government offices and with European firms. Local Arab firms employ Arab clerical labour almost exclusively.

Masons and building operatives are drawn principally from the
465 Yemen. The following rates of wages are paid.

Coolies from 8 to 12 annas a day (8 hours).
Masons from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Carpenters from 1 to 3 rupees a day (8 hours).
Clerks from Rs. 35 to Rs. 250 a month (according to grade).
Personal servant Rs. 15 to Rs. 50 a month.
Motor drivers Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 a month.

262 435 465 511 The daily staple food of a coolie is 2 lb. flour, 2 ounces of ghee, and also fish or meat to the cost of about 2 annas. The total value of the food consumed daily is about 6 annas.

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

The following table shows the value of the most important articles of the export trade for the last five years:— 439

Articles.	*1933–34.*	*1934–35.*	*1935–36.*	*1936–37.*	*1937.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Piece goods, grey	50,91,091	36,66,609	50,62,407	40,02,310	40,99,727
Piece goods, white	5,78,526	5,19,395	7,55,098	9,99,452	9,76,935
Piece goods, coloured.	29,83,297	28,28,147	31,77,184	40,86,579	38,87,306
Coffee	31,34,717	28,58,217	39,11,003	28,12,927	21,26,392
Skins, raw ...	56,95,317	39,18,447	53,57,094	71,94,785	80,94,619
Hides, raw ...	53,752	82,526	1,27,990	3,25,928	4,75,556
Grain and pulse	27,61,882	16,03,581	24,82,494	27,98,300	36,12,030
Tobacco ...	12,92,646	13,78,639	13,56,710	18,30,367	14,38,868
Provisions and oilman's stores.	5,35,699	5,67,504	6,61,462	5,55,675	6,60,563
Sugar	10,87,305	12,06,576	15,02,102	14,57,450	12,20,192
Gums and resins	6,31,467	6,08,409	7,66,767	5,83,822	8,42,817
Salt	29,83,410	27,89,402	36,13,997	30,96,141	33,69,418
Cotton twist ...	10,33,532	6,95,806	8,89,717	4,27,177	4,66,793
Spices	4,22,202	4,57,992	7,19,220	8,22,421	8,95,923
Oils	2,18,332	2,66,069	5,42,149	8,90,763	6,56,495
Metals	1,75,122	1,75,551	2,32,203	2,40,826	3,62,868
Animals, living	1,46,590	82,933	1,19,831	40,215	10,153
Tea	1,28,488	1,53,255	3,10,864	3,33,660	5,51,726
Dyeing materials	3,02,764	1,64,348	2,25,600	2,87,660	4,23,717
Soap	1,07,675	1,10,503	1,87,092	2,71,081	3,15,667
Shells	64,967	72,644	1,22,996	1,19,811	1,26,049

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4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

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Clerks from Rs.35 to Rs.250 a month (according to grade).
Personal servants Rs.15 to Rs.50 a month.
Motor-drivers Rs.40 to Rs.100 a month.

511 The daily staple food of a coolie is 2 lb. flour, 2 ounces of 262 ghee, and also fish or meat to the cost of about 2 annas. The total value of the food consumed daily is about 6 annas.

511 The cost of living in the case of others varies with the emoluments of the individual concerned. European standard would average Rs.5 a day exclusive of servants' wages, cost of entertaining and club expenses.

X.—EDUCATION, WELFARE INSTITUTIONS, AND RECREATION.

Education.

Organisation and Administration.

871 While Aden was attached to India, the administration of education followed, with some local modifications, the system obtaining in the Bombay Presidency, and no radical changes in internal organization have been effected since the constitution of Aden as a Colony.

The administration is carried out, under the Governor, by an Education Officer, assisted by a clerical staff. The post of Education Officer was held until November, 1937, by an Indian officer seconded from the Indian Education Service. It is now held by a British officer of the Colonial Education Service. From March, 1933, to March, 1937, there was also an Assistant Education Officer whose main duty was to improve the teaching in

5 Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

estimate 5,000 men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepot industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries—garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water (Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the population and to the chronic under employment and poverty.

Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are always low, partly on account of the very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of educaton and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

For skilled workers the outlook is far better. There is such a dearth of trained or capable men that they command good wages.

The wages of unskilled labour were about Re. 1 a day (1*s.* 6*d.*), and it is possible to support a family on this sum. Immigrant labourers from the Yemen, who come to Aden as single men, even manage to save up enough to return after a year or so with clothes for their women-folk and money to pay off debts or buy land. Of skilled trades, carpenters earn about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a day (4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.*), blacksmiths much the same, welders about Rs. 100 (£7 10*s.*) a month or more. Hours vary from 48 to 60 per week in the various industries.

The following are the prices of a few of the more necessary commodities:

Food

Butter, Rs. 2.4.0 per lb.
Cheese, Rs. 1.8.0 per 12-oz. tin.
Fish, about 1 anna for a fish of the herring type and size, or less for coarser fish.
Flour, 5 as. per lb.
Ghee, Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.8.0 per lb.
Meat, 10 as. to 12 as. per lb.
Potatoes, 4 as. per lb.
Rice, 7 as. per lb.
Soap (Key Pale, 6 as. per 250-gram cake.
Sugar, brown, 5 as. per lb.
white 6 as. per lb.
Tea, Rs. 1.14.0 per lb.

Clothing

Sheeting, coloured, Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 per yard.
Shirt, Rs. 5.
Shirting, white, Rs. 1.8.0 to Rs. 1.12.0 per yard.
Tropical suit, Rs. 60 and upwards.

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden MM1

kinds of fish are taken in fair quantity but no one species appears to predominate. Crawfish are reported as numerous on rocky bottoms, but they are only taken locally for sale fresh to Europeans. Oysters abound on the rocks between tidemarks and could no doubt be cultivated in several landlocked bays where markets are available.

In general, the fisheries appear to be promising but localised and seasonal, the fishermen tending to follow the shoals along the coast. A fishery based on a harbour might have to employ vessels of considerable ranged storage capacity if landings were to be kept constant throughout the year.

During the greater part of 1947 the Fisheries Officer was still under training in the United Kingdom, but the Fisheries Adviser to the Colonial Office himself spent a fortnight in the Colony and Protectorate early in the year and was much impressed by the quantity of fish available. By November an extensive survey of the fisheries resources of this area had been planned in London and a party, consisting of a fish oils chemist, a canning expert, a Political Officer and the permanent Fisheries Officer, arrived in Aden towards the end of the month. They were later joined by the Fisheries Adviser and a second Fisheries Officer was expected early in 1948.

By the end of the year, the two technical experts and the Political Officer were at work at Mukalla and the Fisheries Officer was at Aden starting to equip two vessels for experimental fishing.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochas shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing-plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsmen with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

Lorries are owned in small fleets by merchants and contractors; conversely, the 65 buses are almost in individual ownership. Taxis are in small ownership, and mainly driven by Somalis.

As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownerships in Aden, the following are the main concerns and their proprietorship:

5:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1947) 1949 MM1 Aden/M/M1

All buildings in course of erection are inspected periodically to ensure that they comply with the regulations in force. Seventy-eight permanent building permits were issued in 1947, compared with 21 in the previous year.

Crown Lands

The Director of Public Works is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, and all transfers of immovable property made during the year were duly registered after the various titles had been carefully scrutinised.

Eighteen parcels of Crown land were also leased during the year to the general public for various building purposes, compared with two in 1946.

Stores

All work is carried out departmentally by direct labour, and consequently large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Deliveries of most goods from the United Kingdom during 1947 were much better than in the previous year, and stores to the value of £55,000 were issued to the various works during the year under review.

Labour

Little or no difficulty was experienced in obtaining artisans or labourers until the latter part of the year, when a large number of masons and carpenters left for more lucrative employment in the Persian Gulf. The standard of tradesmen is not high, and the establishment of a Trade School which Government have under consideration would go a long way to raise the standard of local craftsmen to a higher level.

BROADCASTING

There has been no broadcasting service since the Aden Station ZNR closed down at the end of 1945. Towards the end of 1947 the re-introduction of this service, at least for emergency purposes, was proposed, and the possibility of reviving broadcasting, whether for emergency purposes or as a regular service, considered.

Number of wireless receiving licenses	625
Number of radio diffusion subscribers	Nil

Chapter 11 : Communications

ROADS

There are no railways in the Colony, and communication between the various townships is by road.

The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and average 20 feet in width. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed,

G.GL. BRIT. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden M/M

433 of imported thread into cloth or dyeing and printing of imported cloth
for the local market, the crushing of sesame seeds for cooking oil, the
manufacture of cigarettes and the fashioning (without the potter's wheel)
463 of crude earthenware jars for storing water. At a rough estimate 5,000
men are employed in the port, 1,000 men and 200 women in the entrepôt
industries, 500 men in salt manufacture and 100–200 in each of the other
industries mentioned. There are, of course, numerous minor industries
—garages, tailors, bakeries, production of electric light and water
(Government owned), cinemas and a host of trades carried on by persons
who range from substantial importers of grain to sellers of water by the
464 glass in the streets. The number of these traders is greatly in excess of
467 the real needs of the town, owing partly to the shifting nature of the
population and to the chronic under-employment and poverty.

511 Wages of unskilled labour in Aden are low, partly on account of the
465 very low standard of efficiency which is the result of malnutrition, lack of
education and an enervating climate, and partly to the pressure of the
surplus labour from the Yemen, so close at hand.

465 During the year there was constant pressure to increase rates of wages,
not because of any increase in the cost of living (which fell slightly as
467 Japanese cloth at cheaper prices became available), but because of greater
organisation among the employees of the three big companies who service
468 the port, and very largely because Government employees received
substantial payments in anticipation of arrears of salary from 1st January,
1946, following the visit of a Commission of Enquiry. These interim
awards to Government staff were immediately followed by demands for
similar bonus payments from commercial employees, backed up by
strikes or the threat of strikes, and these demands were generally
conceded.

468 A strike of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's labour in November
504 affected the port; a few ships were oiled direct from tankers or by the
services of office staff, but some shipping had to be diverted to other ports.
The coal and other port labour joined the strike. The strikers refused
Government arbitration, and after three weeks the employers conceded
the majority of the men's demands.

465 A Labour Advisory Board, on which the Government, Port Trust
464 and other substantial employers of labour are represented, has fixed the
minimum rate for unskilled labour at Rs. 1.6.0 (2s. 2d.) a day, and this
rate is now paid by the big firms, but casual labourers who work for Arab
or other small employers do not achieve anything like this sum, even
when in regular employment, and the monthly earnings of most men are
greatly reduced by irregular employment.

Skilled tradesmen are insufficient for the requirements of Aden and
so can command relatively good pay—up to Rs. 100 a month (£7 10s.)
or more. There is also competition for skilled tradesmen from the oil-
fields of the Persian Gulf, where high wages are being offered.

435 Commodity prices have not varied much during the year and the
following are approximate figures for December, 1948 (price control is
effective for such staple articles of diet as flour, rice and sugar):

6-Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 Mill Aden M.M.

Food

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Butter, Rs. 2.4.0 per lb.
Cheese, Rs. 1.1.0 per 12-oz. tin.
Fish, about 1 anna for a fish of the herring type and size, or less for coarser fish.
Flour, 5 as. per lb.
Ghee, Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.8.0 per lb.
Meat, 10 as. to 12 as. per lb.
Potatoes, 4 as. per lb.
Rice, 7 as. per lb.
Soap (Key Pale), 6 as. per 250-gram cake.
Sugar, brown, 5 as. per lb.
white, 6 as. per lb.
Tea, Rs. 1.14.0 per lb.

Clothing

Sheeting, coloured, Rs. 1.20 Rs. 2 per yard.
Shirt, Rs. 5.
Shirting, white, Rs. 1.8.0 to Rs. 1.12.0 per yard.
Tropical suit, Rs. 60 and upwards.

Utilities and Petrol

Electric light, 5 as. per unit.
Water, 4 as. per 100 gallons.
Petrol, Rs. 1.8.0 per gallon.

Rents are high and accommodation scarce.

[362 647]

There is no separate Labour Department and efforts to secure a Welfare and Labour Officer during the year were not successful. The District Commissioner acts as Labour Officer and investigates such complaints as are brought to his notice.

No labour legislation was passed during the year. The following are the more important Ordinances in force:

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Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance (No. 20 of 1938)

This prohibits the employment of children under 15 years of age, and the employment of women or young persons between 15 and 18 years of age on nightwork or in specified occupations.

Factories Ordinance (No. 21 of 1938)

This provides for the health and safety of persons working in factories, their hours, holidays and overtime pay, and provides for the appointment of factory inspectors.

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 40 of 1939)

This provides for the free medical treatment of workmen and their compensation in the event of injury causing loss of employment or death.

Minimum Wage and Wages Regulation Ordinance (No. 17 of 1940)

This provides for fixing the minimum wages to be paid in any occupation.

6 Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance (*No.* 23 *of* 1942)

This legalises trade unions and makes provision for their registration and the audit of their accounts. The English law as regards "intimidation" is followed.

Contracts of Employment (*Indigenous Workers*) *Ordinance* (*No.* 45 *of* 1942)

This provides for the employment of natives of Asia or Africa and requires contracts of employment for periods over six months to be in writing and approved by an authorised officer. It provides for the repatriation of employees working in other territories.

Labour Ordinance (*No.* 6 *of* 1943)

This regulates contracts of employment, requires contracts in writing to be approved by the District Commissioner, and makes provision for deeds of apprenticeship.

There is no old age pension scheme in Aden, but small grants from a Poor Relief Fund are made to the aged destitute.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

Statement of Revenue for 1947–48 *as compared with the Revenue of the previous years*

	1947–48 Rs.	1946–47 Rs.	1945–46 Rs.
1. Direct Taxation	37,15,064	44,33,434	59,44,407
2. Customs and Excise	25,48,427	22,18,674	18,58,189
3. Stamps and Licences	4,85,761	5,34,891	5,44,097
4. Receipts for or in aid of specific Government Services	4,88,239	7,05,990	6,34,710
5. Contribution and Local Reimbursements	2,13,131	2,15,670	2,29,917
6. Reimbursements by His Majesty's Government	2,60,007	2,57,036	2,47,027
7. Posts and Telephones	9,96,441	9,46,785	6,33,211
8. Miscellaneous	13,23,696	11,19,402	7,90,499
9. Water Supply	6,93,671	7,01,587	7,02,787
10. Electricity Supply	11,72,954	11,38,254	10,10,567
11. Land Sales	1,68,363	14,049	27,301
12. Colonial Development and Welfare Fund	46,667	—	—
TOTAL Rs.	1,21,12,421	1,22,85,772	1,26,22,712

6:Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden M M 1

Labour

464 1948 was a difficult year for labour. Due to the considerable increase in the cost of living, several strikes took place, and wages had to be increased to offset this rise.

There was a shortage of skilled carpenters and masons, early in the year, but due to Government's action in limiting the number of exit permits granted to these tradesmen to go to the Persian Gulf, where more lucrative employment was available with work in connection with oil development, the position became easier, and most of the buildings scheduled for 1948 were completed.

Chapter 11 : Communications

[496] There are no railways in the Colony and communications between the various townships is by road.

491 The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and the carriageways are 20 feet in width. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed, but the majority are in water bound macadam. There are also about eight miles of streets in the bazaar area which have not yet been made up.

All bituminous and water-bound macadam roads are kept in reasonable repair, and as and when funds and materials permit, existing "earth roads" are made up. The usual specification is as follows: the carriageway is composed of 4 inches of bituminous macadam in two coats, 3 inches of coarse and 1 inch of fine, on 12 inches of hardcore foundation with 12 × 6 inches of rough chisel-dressed kerbing. Footpaths are of bituminous macadam or cement concrete on suitable foundations.

The Colony has:

Bituminous macadam roads	*Water-bound macadam roads*	*Unmade roads*	*Total*
34 miles	10 miles	16 miles	60 miles

652 The Development Committee recommended that £200,000 of the
491 surplus funds of the Colony should be used for improving the roads, and £15,000 of this sum was spent in making up roads in the bazaar area in 1948.

The roads are well signposted, and traffic lines superimposed where necessary. Road reflecting studs are also fitted on some dangerous corners.

Street lighting is by electricity, and all the main roads and the majority of the secondary roads are well lit.

The expenditure on roads during 1948 was £30,000.

T: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden

THE COLONY

PART I

Review of 1949 and 1950

THE progress of the Colony has been uninterrupted by any serious political or industrial disputes, or by epidemic disease, and both in numbers of residents and material prosperity it has grown far beyond any previous records. The number of ships calling at Aden for fuel make it one of the busiest ports of the world, handling a tonnage comparable with Liverpool, while the air services radiating from Aden to the Middle East, India and the East African Territories have increased in number and frequency. The new civil airport is nearing completion. A new radio-telephone link has been established with East Africa and London.

Steady progress has been made with the Education Five-Year Plan, and with other development works, described in more detail below, and the revenue has remained adequate for recurrent expenditure and for substantial expenditure upon new works without raising additional taxation.

The increase in the population has been caused mainly by the immigration of Arabs from the interior (Aden Protectorate and Yemen) and of Indians and Pakistanis, in most cases single men only. In order to prevent the influx into Aden of people for whom there cannot be found employment or housing, new Immigration Rules were introduced in May, 1950, under which an intending immigrant must satisfy the Government that he is coming to an approved occupation for which no suitable local candidate (of any race) is available. This control has been so far effected mainly on persons arriving by sea. The protection of local employees is being accompanied by a vigorous programme of school building, including a technical college, to raise the educational standard of local candidates.

The late Mr. A. Antonin Besse, K.B.E., made a generous gift of £50,000 to the Colony; £29,000 is to be spent on buildings at the new Technical College and it is proposed to use the balance for the education of women in Aden.

A population movement of great significance was completed during the period under review by the migration of nearly 42,000 Jews of Yemen origin to Israel. Arrangements for their air lift from Aden were made by the Israeli Authorities in close co-operation with the Aden Government, and the operation was completed without accident or any outbreak of disease, and without molestation by the Arab communities through whom they passed.

The Yemeni Jews have thus ceased to be an important element of the population of Southern Arabia, and in Aden Colony they have

9: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 M841 Aden MM1

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population at the 1946 census was 80,500. Since then three classes of movement are known to have taken place, though, as no records are kept of land movements, these numbers are only roughly estimated. There has been a substantial influx of traders and clerks, mostly from India, amounting to about 2,000 since the census. Secondly, all the Jews in transit from Yemen to Israel have moved on from Hashid Camp and about 2,000 Aden Jews have gone with them. But by far the biggest factor is the continual movement of Arabs from the Yemen into Aden. Despite good harvests in the Yemen in 1950, the security, the greater political freedom, and above all the higher standard of living and the wealth of the Colony attract an average of 100 to 150 persons a week, almost entirely single men, coming mostly to casual unskilled employment at Rs. 1/6/- a day when working, or in some cases to better paid jobs as masons. The continued rise in the traffic of the port and the amount of new building work in progress have also brought labour into the Colony till the population stands at the highest in its history.

The following are the latest estimates by race and area:

	Total	*Tawahi*	*Mualla*	*Khormaksar*	*Crater*	*Sh. Othman*	*Villages*
Europeans ..	500	200	—	100	200	—	—
Indians, Christians, etc. ..	500	300	—	—	200	—	—
Hindus	3,500	1,000	—	—	2,500	—	—
Jews	1,500	—	—	—	1,500	—	—
Somalis	6,500	1,500	2,500	500	2,000	—	—
Muslims (India & Pakistan) ..	8,000	1,000	500	—	6,500	—	—
Arabs	79,500	10,000	6,000	500	34,000	25,000	4,000
TOTAL ..	100,000	14,000	9,000	1,100	46,900	25,000	4,000

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

The following table gives the totals of persons who entered and left the Colony by sea and air. It takes no account of the very large movement by land across the frontier with the Protectorate and the Protectorate's frontier with the Yemen, of which no statistics are kept, nor of the Jewish emigration of nearly 42,000 to Israel (see Part I). Nor is it clear how many of the Arabs who arrive by sea pass through Aden in transit by land to the Protectorate and Yemen.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MMI Aden A181

The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures are available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden. 463

There is no agriculture in the Colony, and the only local product is salt obtained from the sea by solar evaporation. This industry employs some 750 regular and 550 casual workers. 241 317

There is no heavy industry in Aden apart from some ship repairing (including floating docks). The light industries are confined to finishing processes using imported materials. The most important of these light industries are the production of aluminium, hollow-ware, soap, calico printing, and a little dyeing and weaving of cotton fabric, the manufacture of furniture and cigarettes. Machinery is used in the aluminium and cigarette factories, and to some extent in furniture making. The textile trade is primitive in the extreme and is entirely hand work. The weaving is done in the home, using primitive looms with hand-thrown shuttles. 438 463 286

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Figures more recent than those of the 1946 census are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers (whose families remain at home) and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing. 463 [465]

There is a great deal of casual employment, comparatively few workers have permanent work, unskilled labour is entirely immigrant and dependent to a certain extent on economic conditions in nearby territories. Immigrant workers, whose families remain in their villages, usually return there after about two years. 464

Standards of craftsmanship are low, and the rate of production, quality of tools, and methods of work in general leave much to be desired. Mechanisation is almost unknown and a large labour force is thus employed in such processes as bunkering of coal by hand, and working salt in the pans, as well as, for example, in the building trade where even the wheelbarrow is rarely seen. Commercial firms and the very large number of small locally-owned workshops do not use any proper apprenticeship system. Boys pick up some knowledge as helpers, but are casually employed and may frequently change employment. A general all-round improvement is expected with the opening of the Government Technical College, where night classes for adults 461 [466] 874

?: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden 1949/

654 226 grounds which could be worked profitably by larger power craft. Experiments with outboard motors on dugout canoes have been moderately encouraging, and it is hoped that a method of mounting one particular model through a central trunk, which is now being tested, will provide a small power craft suited to the fishermen's needs. The larger planked beach-boats or sambuks have much greater possibilities. The Colony has bought a 9-h.p. diesel engine and installed it in the sambuk of a leading fisherman, on hire-purchase terms. After five months he is very pleased with it, although the installation is not yet wholly satisfactory.

[164] In general the introduction of mechanical power to the Aden fishermen presents many problems. There is an acute shortage of carpenters and mechanics capable of installing engines but plenty of self-styled experts ready to damage both engine and boat. Then, when an installation is complete, it must be placed in the hands of an illiterate with no mechanical knowledge whatsoever, beyond what the engineman of the fishery vessel and the Fishery Officer have been able to teach him since he accepted the loan. Once the sambuk owners have become used to engines, it should be possible greatly to reduce the labour of working their nets by installing winches, and thereby enable them to dispense with some of their at present uneconomically large crews.

Attempts to find productive grounds with the fishery vessel proved abortive, as the seine winch-drive broke in May and the necessary parts did not arrive in Aden until December. Two encouraging shots of mixed sea perch were made in Ghubbet al Haikah, 70 miles from Aden, before the mishap occurred, however, so it is to be hoped that this and other grounds will be found to hold fish during 1951. The use of craft of this size could only be undertaken in conjunction with cold storage in Aden, as the landing of a full cargo would temporarily glut the market. The craft themselves would have either to carry ice or else to be fitted with refrigeration. Such an undertaking would be outside the scope of any but the largest Aden firms, unless the cold store belonged to a separate concern.

In order to estimate the potential market for quick-frozen fish with the shipping calling at Aden, the Fishery Officer and the Harbour Master drafted and circulated a questionnaire on the subject. This revealed a monthly demand for approximately 15 tons which would be open to a concern equipped with modern cold storage, over and above what could be sold ashore to the people of Aden.

228 439 In addition to the trade in fresh fish, the Colony of Aden is the centre of a considerable entrepôt trade in cured fish, a great part of the total catch from the south coast of Arabia, the southern Red Sea and Somaliland being brought by dhow for the exporting merchants, who store it in godowns on islands in the harbour. Their principal market is Colombo, but large quantities go to East Africa. The Aden Port Trust records a total of nearly 120,000 cwts. of dried and salted fish as having left Aden in 1949: the 1950 returns are not yet available.

?: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MNI Aden mn1

The Island of Perim was visited early in 1950, when a good haul of sharks was made by the fishery vessel. Shark lines have been lent to the inhabitants, but the poorness of their boats, the bad weather and the roughness of the bottom led to the loss of many hooks. The Administrator of Perim has been granted funds to provide a motor sambuk during 1951, of which the Perim water-plant foreman will be engineman.

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OTHER INDUSTRIES

As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

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There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

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Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

Lorries are owned in small fleets by merchants and contractors; conversely, the 60 buses are almost all in individual ownership. Taxis are in small ownership, and mainly driven by Somalis.

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As an example of the diverse nationality of business ownership in Aden, the following are the main concerns and the nationality of their proprietors:

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Salt Works	Italian, Indian
Soap Works	French
Dyeing and Printing	French, Indian
Aluminium Factory	Indian
Shipping Agencies	British, Indian, French
Ship-owning	British, French, Arab, Indian

There are no co-operative societies.

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Aden has no agriculture, forests or mines. Animal husbandry is confined to the keeping of a few hundred cows for dairy purposes.

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?: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

Mechanical Workshop

A vehicle workshop is maintained where all Government motor vehicles are serviced and repaired. Animal drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night soil carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

Furniture

The Government instituted a scheme to manufacture and repair furniture on hire to officials residing in Government houses. Two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds was spent during 1949 and 1950 on new furniture made in the workshop and obtained from contractors.

Building Plans

Building plans submitted by the general public for approval are checked and then forwarded to the Township Authority for sanction. All buildings in course of erection are inspected at regular intervals to ensure that they comply with regulations. Two hundred and seventy-six permanent building permits were issued during the two years.

Crown Lands

The Director of Public Works, who is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, scrutinises various titles submitted to him for transfers of immoveable property. All transfers are registered. One hundred and forty-five plots of land were leased to the public for the erection of residential, commercial and industrial buildings in the period under review.

Stores

As many new works and all maintenance works are carried out by direct labour, large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Stocks valued at £91,200 in 1949 and £78,000 in 1950 were issued from the Central Stores Depot.

Labour

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining skilled artisans but plenty of labourers were available. The standard of tradesmen is not high, but it is hoped that the new Technical College will go a long way to raise the standard.

Chapter 11: Communications

ROADS

There are no railways in the Colony and the communication between the townships is by road.

The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and the carriage-ways vary in width from 20 feet to about 40 feet. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed. There are about eight miles of streets in the bazaar areas which have not yet been made up.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The occupations of the people of Aden are those of a busy port, and 15 per cent of the estimated male labour force is directly engaged in port activities such as bunkering, handling and transhipment of cargo, ship repairing, dhow building, and the duties performed by pilots, crews of harbour vessels, light-keepers and so forth.

The cleaning, sorting and packing for re-export of hides, skins, coffee, incense and gum are occupations of considerable importance. Several big merchants as well as small exporters are engaged in these trades. No figures are available, but it is estimated that approximately 2,000 men and women are engaged as casual labour. Apart from some limited employment in domestic service, this is the only work in which women are employed in Aden.

Large numbers are engaged in retail trade, the distributive, catering and transport industries, and in small workshops or in independent crafts. Accurate figures, more recent than those of the 1946 census, are not available. An unusually high proportion of persons are engaged in catering, particularly in small eating houses, coffee shops, and in hawking food, tea, coffee and even iced drinking water. This is explained by the large number of immigrant male workers and by the local custom of sending out for cooked food. There are also many domestic servants, particularly small boys, employed in homes where purdah prevents the women from marketing.

SOME STATISTICS OF EMPLOYMENT

	Port, Harbour, Wharves	*Building Trade*	*Registered Factories*
Supervisors	174	105	105
Clerks	467	93	186
Artisans	1,892	1,432	808
Unskilled Labourers	4,350	4,782	2,046
Young Persons	203	284	186
	7,086	6,696	3,331

Note: The above figures are based on a labour census carried out in December, 1952. Certain figures had to be estimated, in particular the number of unskilled labourers employed in port work.

There are no indications of unemployment in the Colony, but a number of workers are considered to be under-employed because of

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

464 the casual nature of their work. There is no seasonal fluctuation of employment, though economic and agricultural conditions in the nearby territories have an affect on the size of the labour force in Aden.

167 A large proportion of the labour force consists of migrant workers.
464 These come mainly from the Western Aden Protectorate and the Yemen, with some men and a few women from Somaliland Protectorate. These immigrants provide the entire force of unskilled casual workers, of whom large numbers are employed in such processes as bunkering of coal by hand, handling cargo, working salt in the pans, etc. Mechanisation has hardly been introduced.

The building trade is also largely staffed by immigrant workers with the exception of some local born carpenters, electricians and plumbers (known locally as fitters).

464 The immigrant workers, not accompanied by their families who
167 remain in their villages, usually remain for a period of about two years
465 before returning home for a period of rest. These workers are not engaged on any form of contract, but seek their own employment on arrival, usually finding casual work at daily rates of pay. There are no special Government arrangements for their welfare and protection, but they secure the same protection by reason of the Minimum Wages and Workmen's Compensation Ordinances as the locally born.

There is no emigrant labour beyond a few Yemenis proceeding through Aden for employment in the oil fields of Saudi Arabia or as dock labourers to Madagascar. In all cases properly attested contracts are required before travel facilities are afforded by the Immigration Officer.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

465 Wages rose considerably in 1951–52 and the scales of legal minima under the Minimum Wages Ordinance were revised in April and July, 1951 and again in October, 1952. The hourly and piece-work rates of the Aden Shipping Conference were also increased in similar proportion on each of these occasions. Rations are not provided by employers, but free housing in barrack buildings is provided by the employers of coal bunkering labourers, and also for some of the workers engaged in cargo handling. Overtime is paid at the rate of time and a quarter to workers on daily rates.

RATES OF PAY IN DECEMBER, 1952

Minimum daily wages

Young persons under 18 years .	Shs. 3.00
Unskilled Labourers . .	4.00
Skilled Labourers . . .	5.00
Semi-skilled Tradesmen . .	6.50
Skilled Tradesmen . . .	8.00

The above rates are for a 48 hour week. Overtime up to 50 hours is paid at flat-time rates, beyond 50 hours at time and a quarter.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Average rates of pay in the Building Trade

Young persons under 18 . . .	Shs. 3.44
Unskilled Labourers . . .	3.13
Masons	10.73
Carpenters	10.87

The hours worked by harbour and wharf labourers are irregular, depending on the movements of shipping in the Port. The usual hours, in workshops and in the larger concerns are 48 hours per week (six days), though in the building trade a 54-hour week is common. There is little night work except that necessary for the mooring and oil bunkering of ships and the handling of cargo. Coal bunkering is not done at night. Sunday is the accepted day of rest. Paid holidays are not customary in Aden.

COST OF LIVING

An attempt was made by the Department of Economic Control to compile a cost-of-living index but it was not published because it was doubtful whether it was sufficiently reliable. A new index was then produced jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and the Township Authority and the first index figure was published on 15th July, 1952 and the second on 1st October. The figure on 1st October, 1952 showed an average rise of 20.89 points above that ruling on 1st April, 1951, and an increase in cost-of-living allowances and an adjustment to daily wages were made.

A list of some price-controlled commodities at 31st December, 1952 is given in the table on page 11.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Department is still small, but work-places are as regularly visited as possible with limited staff. Particular attention is paid to the creation of better industrial relations, and to the assistance of workmen in settling their compensation claims and wage disputes. Efforts are also made to prevent the employment of children, and inspection is carried out to control the employment of women and young persons. The Labour and Welfare Officer and the Principal of the Technical College are factory inspectors, and a qualified marine steam engineer is the boiler inspector. There are no employment exchange facilities.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The work-people of the Colony have no conception of labour organisation or of collective bargaining. The only registered trade union is the Aden Harbour Pilots' Association with a membership of 11 European pilots.

The Labour Advisory Board of nominated members, employers and non-employers, met nine times during 1951-52. It has not yet proved possible to nominate any workers' representatives to the Board, owing

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Chapter 8: Legislation

1951

In 1951, 24 Ordinances were enacted of which the following were the more important:

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1 of 1951), which made it an offence for any person to employ children as coal coolies, an employment unsuitable for children.

The Port Trust Ordinance (No. 3 of 1951), which consolidated and amended the statutory powers of the Trustees of the Port of Aden. It replaced the Aden Port Trust Act, 1888 (Bombay Act V of 1888).

The Income Tax Ordinance (No. 5 of 1951), which repealed and replaced the former Income Tax Ordinance (Cap. 67), which was based on the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, and introduced up-to-date legislation based on the model Income Tax Ordinance advocated by the Secretary of State. The change involved no departure from the basic principles governing the incidence and scope of the tax but was directed solely to securing better and more practical machinery.

The Criminal Courts (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7 of 1951), the primary purpose of which is to do away with warrant case procedure in trials and to replace it with a consolidated procedure similar in principle to that in summons cases. This is to avoid the unnecessary prolongation of proceedings in warrant cases which that procedure entailed.

The Pensions (Increase) Ordinance (No. 10 of 1951), which introduced a scale of increases of pensions payable to officers who retired on pension prior to 1st January, 1946.

The Coinage and Currency Ordinance (No. 11 of 1951), under which the currency issued by the East African Currency Board replaced the existing Indian currency prescribed as legal tender under the provisions of the Coinage and Currency Ordinance (Cap. 25).

The Exchange Control (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12 of 1951), which provided for the making of ancillary Exchange Control Regulations to replace certain portions of the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1941.

The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13 of 1951), which changed the method of paying stamp duty from the affixing of special adhesive stamps to rubber or metal stamped endorsements. Fees not exceeding *Shs.*2 may still, if desired, be paid by adhesive stamps but these stamps shall be ordinary postage stamps.

The Court Fees (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15 of 1951), which effected a change in the method of paying court fees by making provision for the collection and denotation of all court-fees, irrespective of amount, by endorsement, but as a matter of convenience small fees not exceeding *Shs.*2 may optionally be collected and denoted by ordinary postage stamps.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden M MI

respect of injury to third parties. This legislation is similar to that which has existed in the United Kingdom for many years.

The Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 8 of 1952), which made it an offence for a person to practice medicine in the Colony unless registered under the Ordinance. It has also deleted the provision under which the practice of native systems was permitted, since treatment by qualified practitioners is now available in the Colony.

The Ordinance also made provision for the control of the sale and publication of advertisements of cures.

The Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance (No. 9 of 1952), which was based on the Distribution of German Enemy Property Act, 1949, of the United Kingdom, and which made local provision for the collection, realisation and distribution of property in the Colony which belonged to German owners on 3rd September, 1939. It provided that creditors in the Colony should have a first charge on such assets in Aden.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 12 of 1952), which prohibited the carriage or conveyance of animals in such a manner as to cause them unnecessary suffering. It also enabled rules to be made to regulate the conditions under which animals should be carried by sea.

The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14 of 1952), which made it obligatory for persons publishing newspapers to give security for any damages which a court may award against them in a libel suit. It also provided for the correction of articles and other reports in local newspapers which contain factual statements which either are false or distorted.

The Port Ordinance (No. 15 of 1952), which amended and consolidated the law relating to the Port of Aden and matters ancillary thereto. It replaced the Indian Ports Act, 1908, and also the Indian Lighthouse Act, 1927.

The Port Trust (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16 of 1952), which authorised the Trustees of the Port of Aden to raise money by way of loans or temporary borrowing in order to carry out the duties imposed upon them under the principal Ordinance. It also gave statutory recognition to the practice that all port dues, fees and charges should be credited to the Trustees.

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17 of 1952), which brought within the scope of the principal Ordinance locally engaged civilian staff of departments of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom. In Aden this virtually means local civilians employed by Her Majesty's Forces.

It also increased the minimum payment of compensation, in the case of injury to a workman resulting in permanent total incapacity, from *Shs.*1,050 to *Shs.*1,500 and the maximum from *Shs.*15,000 to *Shs.*18,000 which latter amount represents 24 months' earnings of a workman whose monthly earnings do not exceed *Shs.*750.

This Ordinance has not yet been brought into force.

The Government Guards (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1952),

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden MMI

edge of the Rub al-Khali desert. The depth of the northern frontier from the southern coast varies from 50 miles in the west to 200 miles in the east.

ADEN COLONY

The area of the Crown Colony is small, only about 80 square miles, exclusive of its two dependencies: Perim Island (5 square miles) and the Kuria Muria Islands (30 square miles). The population of the Crown Colony was estimated at the end of 1950 at 100,000, an increase of almost 20,000 over the figure at the 1946 census. The increase was mainly due to the influx of Arabs from the Yemen at an average rate of 100–150 per week, for the most part to take casual unskilled employment at higher living standards and in greater security than in their own country. Some 2,000 traders and clerks, mainly from India, had also immigrated since the census, and in May 1950 new Immigration Rules were introduced to secure preference in employment and housing for the local population, of whatever race. The population of the Colony is approximately classified as follows: Arabs 79,500; Muslims (India and Pakistan) 8,500; Somalis 6,500; Hindus 3,500; Jews 1,500 (about 2,000 having departed for Israel); Europeans 500; Indian Christians and others 500.

From the date of its capture by the British in 1839 until 1923 Aden was administered under the Government of Bombay. For the next five years control was vested in the Governor-General of India in Council. Finally, on 1 April 1937 it was constituted a Crown Colony administered by a Governor who is responsible to the British Colonial Office and is assisted by an Executive Council. Under the provisions of the Aden Colony (Amendment) Order of 1944, a Legislative Council was inaugurated in January 1947. It consists of the Governor as President; the Air Officer Commanding the British Forces in Aden, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Financial Secretary, as *ex-officio* members; four official members; and eight unofficial members, of whom at the end of 1950 four were British and four residents of Aden. Aden Colony also includes Perim Island (pop. 381) which is administered by the Commissioner of Police, Aden.

For local government purposes the Colony is divided into the Fortress Township, with a population estimated at 70,000, and the Shaikh Othman Township four miles away,[1] with a population of some 25,000. The members of both authorities were all nominated by the Aden Government until 1949, when provi-

[1] Shaikh Othman was sold to Britain by the Sultan of Lahej in 1882.

ADEN MOI/
"ADMINISTRATION"

N 312 185 458 in the Protectorate has recently been undertaken by the British authorities, while in some areas, particularly in the Qu'aiti Sultanate, schools are now supported by the local governments. Scattered primary and Koranic schools, and at least one postprimary school, are found in each of the protectorates. In the course of a medical survey N 213 565 in Western Aden Protectorate in 1939-40,[39] the degree of literacy was found to average 20 per cent among the men and practically zero among the women. The highest literacy rates were encountered among the Seiyids, a group recognized as the social and the N religious leaders. A college for the sons of [573] chiefs from Western Aden Protectorate is located at Aden.

Vital Statistics

A 459 163 165 Registration of births and deaths is compulsory in the Colony. In the 5 years 1946-50, the birth rate, calculated on the basis of the census returns for 1946, ranged from 26.6 to 31.7 per 1,000 population; the death rate, from 20.1 to 23.5 per 1,000 population. The significance of the mortality A 165 statistics is influenced adversely by the con- 464 tinuous movement of laborers between the Colony and their homes in Yemen and the Protectorate, and the influx of sick individuals from the interior to Aden hospitals, many of whom are in a seriously debilitated condition on arrival. In 1950, for example, the recorded deaths totaled 1,644, of which 511 were among nonresidents. The death rate, as reported, was 20.1 per 1,000 of the 1946 census population, but, eliminating the nonresident deaths, it is reduced to 14.2 per 1,000 population. Corrected to the estimated population for that year, the crude death rate figured at 16.4 per 1,000 and the resident rate at 11.3 per 1,000 population.

A 165 751 The infant mortality rate has declined appreciably within recent years. It had been less than 200 per 1,000 live births for several decades, but it reached a peak of 239 per 1,000 in 1941, when famine conditions prevailed throughout much of southwestern Arabia. The annual rates averaged 176 per

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is known of the mineral reserves of this region, and most of the local industries are small and primitive. Salt is the chief export of the Colony; tobacco, honey and fish products, of the Protectorates.

The port of Aden is visited regularly by ships from all parts of the world. Within the last few years, the Colony has also become a regional center for air services to Cairo and other cities in the Near East and East Africa. Communications between the Colony and the interior are mainly by roads and caravan trails, supplemented by a coastwise dhow trade. Camels and donkeys are the primary means of transport, but the use of motor vehicles is increasing along the main routes. Roads suitable for motor traffic link Aden Colony with certain population centers in Western Aden Protectorate, and Mukalla with the larger towns of the Hadhramaut and adjacent coastlands. Access to the interior is also provided by military air services. [504]

Food and Nutrition

Aden Colony is a cosmopolitan community, in which a variety of food habits is found among the peoples of different racial and economic groups. With the exception of fish, milk and limited supplies of garden vegetables, all foodstuffs are imported. Undernutrition is prevalent among the poorer inhabitants, and particularly among the transient laborers from the interior.

Food supplies are never abundant in the Protectorate, where cultivation is restricted by the nature of the terrain and the scarcity of water in many areas. Anything which interferes with normal production, such as droughts or an invasion of locusts, may result in local food shortages, often approaching famine conditions. The Hadhramaut was seriously affected during the widespread drought in 1941, and children were evacuated from some of the famine areas to relief camps in Mukalla.

The average Arab diet is simple, while that of the pastoral tribes is almost invari-

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Colonial government. Five physicians were working in the eastern protectorate; one in the western.

Dentists. In 1950, there were 3 dentists in Aden, one of whom was employed on the government's school health program.

DISEASES

The statistics compiled from the reports of cases of illness and death in the Colony are apt to give an erroneous impression of the health status of the local inhabitants, since a considerable proportion of the cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries are immigrants from Yemen or the Protectorate. Large numbers enter the Colony each year as transient laborers or traders, while others seek medical attention which is nonexistent in their home communities. The majority are undernourished and live in miserable, crowded quarters under conditions which facilitate the spread of infection. Morbidity and fatality rates in the immigrant population are abnormally high, and affect adversely the health statistics of the Colony as a whole. In the absence of adequate laboratory facilities, the diagnosis of many diseases is necessarily provisional, and the differentiation of various types of infection is seldom made. Moreover, from 10 to 15 per cent of the deaths are usually recorded under the heading "other fevers."

The health facilities in the Protectorate are of recent origin, and although dispensaries have been established in increasing numbers within the last two decades, they are elementary and serve only a small fraction of the population. The meager information derived from the reports of a few medical observers who have toured sections of the interior and from records of admissions to the hospitals in Aden permits scarcely more than rough generalizations as to the prevalence and the distribution of specific diseases among the peoples of the Protectorate. The diseases of primary concern in this area are malaria, tuberculosis, dysentery and eye and skin infections, all

Diseases Spread by Arthropods

Malaria. Little or no indigenous malaria exists at present in the Colony. From 1,000 to 2,000 malaria patients are treated each year in the civilian hospitals and dispensaries, but, with the exception of occasional cases of questionable origin, the infection has almost invariably been acquired outside the limits of the Colony, usually in the interior. Until recent decades, malaria was highly endemic in the oasis of Sheikh Othman and surrounding villages, and sporadic outbreaks were experienced in the town of Aden. Anopheline control work was initiated in 1909 and extended on a colony-wide basis in the 1930s. As a result, the disease was early eliminated from Aden, while its prevalence was progressively reduced in Sheikh Othman. The number of local cases treated at the Keith Falconer Mission Hospital declined from almost 2,000 a year in 1907 to zero in 1950. The last outbreak of malaria was recorded in 1941 among the transient laborers living in *barjahs* but settlements in Sheikh Othman. At that time, *Anopheles sabaeensis* (= *A. culicifacies sabaeensis*), the principal vector, was found breeding in the seaspits. Antianopheline measures are carried on continuously in the Colony and adjacent sections of the Protectorate, and vector species have been eradicated almost completely.

Malaria occurs in most portions of the Protectorate, exclusive of the desert regions and the mountainous areas at the higher elevations. In the 1939-40 survey of Western Aden Protectorate, all gradations of endemicity were encountered. In general, the infection was hyperendemic in the vicinity of perennial streams and moderately endemic in villages around wadies which remained dry for most of the year. The splenic index ranged from 40 to 92 per cent in different localities. Extensive epidemics have been recorded from the highland districts, especially from the Dhala' and the Yafa'i country. Both *Plasmodium falcip-*

officers. Special dekousing stations were established along the 3 main trade routes from Yemen to guard against the development of new foci.

The prevalence of the infection diminished during the summer months, but sporadic outbreaks were again reported in the winter of 1944-45. Early in 1945, a series of permanent dispensaries was organised in Western Aden Protectorate, and the tribal dressers in charge were trained to undertake mass dusting of the populace with DDT powder in the event of further epidemics. No outbreaks of typhus have been reported from the Protectorate since 1945, although the disease has continued to smoulder in Yemen.

Murine typhus is probably endemic. Suspected cases have been observed in Aden hospitals from time to time, but the diagnosis has not been confirmed by laboratory diagnosis.

Plague. Six outbreaks of plague have been recorded from the Colony within the present century—in 1899-1900, 1903-04, 1904-05, 1913-14, 1917-18 and 1927-28. The most serious epidemics were those of 1904-05, involving 2,299 known cases, and of 1927-28, with 1,494 cases and a fatality rate of 74 per cent. In each outbreak the initial cases were detected among dock labourers employed in moving cargo or in loading or unloading coal. Since evidence of a preliminary rat epizootic was lacking, the local authorities concluded that the disease had been introduced by infected workers or by individuals carrying infected fleas. It was considered probable that the rat infection was secondary to the human. The mortality rates almost invariably reached a peak in February or March, and declined with the onset of hot weather. No plague has been reported from the Colony since 1928, but the danger of its importation by means of dhow traffic from endemic ports in Africa and the East is always present. The Medical and Health Department carries on an active rat control program, and examines significant numbers of captured rats each

year for evidence of plague. The disease has not been reported from the Protectorate.

Other Infections. Localized outbreaks of louse-borne relapsing fever have been recorded from the Protectorate, but no indigenous cases have been encountered in Aden. Cases of relapsing fever were frequently discovered at the time of the typhus outbreaks in 1944-45.

Occasional cases of kala-azar are seen in the Colony hospitals, usually among immigrants from Yemen. Two cases, in which the diagnosis of kala-azar was confirmed by spleen puncture, were recently reported from the Civil Hospital.[29] Both originated in southern Yemen, one from the vicinity of Ta'izz and the other from a village near the border of Western Aden Protectorate. Sporadic cases of Oriental sore are also treated in Aden, but the extent of infection in the interior is uncertain.

Cases suspected of being sandfly fever are common. The vector, *Phlebotomus papatasii*, is widely distributed. Guinea worm infection is endemic in the Hadhramaut and in certain oriental districts in the Protectorate. Imported cases are often observed in Aden Colony. Travelers from endemic centers in Africa thought to be suffering from yellow fever are sometimes admitted to the Colony hospitals, but no indigenous cases have been reported.

Nutritional Diseases

Undernutrition is prevalent, particularly among the immigrant laborers in Aden and the poorer villagers and the Bedouin in the interior. Few studies of the prevalence of nutritional diseases have been made, but, in view of the inadequate diet of large sections of the population, deficiency conditions are probably numerous, particularly as regards protein and vitamins C, A and riboflavin of the B complex. Rickets is common in the Protectorate, while minor symptoms of the disease were detected in 17 per cent of 264 schoolchildren examined in Aden township in 1945. Spongy gums, gingivitis and other signs of vitamin C de-

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140
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The Turkish mosque in Sana'a, capital of the Yemen

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P 72 (B)